

1           1.    A method for partially synchronizing a local  
2   database stored on a local computer and a remote database  
3   stored on a remote computer, the method comprising:  
4           forming a message including information related to a  
5   local update of the local database;  
6           selecting a path from one or more communication  
7   paths coupling the local computer to the remote computer to  
8   pass the message to the remote computer;  
9           transmitting data including the message to the  
10   remote computer over the selected path;  
11           receiving the data at the remote computer;  
12           processing the message included in the received data  
13   and providing the information related to the local update to  
14   a remote application executing on the remote computer; and  
15           updating a remote database coupled to the remote  
16   application using the information related to the local  
17   update.

1           2.    The method of claim 1 further comprising  
2   determining whether the local update to the local database  
3   should be sent to the remote computer.

1           3.    The method of claim 2 further comprising:  
2           accepting from the remote application information  
3   related to a remote update of the remote database;  
4           selecting a return path from the one or more  
5   communication paths coupling the local computer to the  
6   remote computer to transmit the information related to the  
7   remote update to the local computer;  
8           transmitting the information related to the remote  
9   update to the message router over the selected return path;  
10   and

11 updating the local database using the information  
12 related to the remote update.

1 4. The method of claim 2 wherein:  
2 determining whether the local update to the local  
3 database should be sent to the remote computer includes  
4 accessing a local application coupled to the local database  
5 using a first application communication protocol; and  
6 wherein  
7 providing the information to the remote application  
8 uses a second application communication protocol.

1 5 The method of 4 wherein the first application  
2 communication protocol is MAPI and the second application  
3 communication protocol is POP.

1 6. The method of claim 3 wherein the local  
2 database and the remote database include electronic mail  
3 messages.

1 7. The method of claim 3 wherein the local  
2 database and the remote database include personal calendar  
3 information.

1 8. The method of claim 3 further comprising  
2 setting configuration data, and wherein selecting the path  
3 from the one or more communication paths for transmission to  
4 the remote computer includes accessing that configuration  
5 data.

1 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising  
2 setting configuration data on the remote computer, and  
3 wherein selecting the return path from the one or more

4 communication paths for transmission to the local computer  
5 includes accessing that configuration data.

1 10. The method of claim 3 wherein transmitting the  
2 data to the remote computer over the selected path for the  
3 message includes:

4 transmitting the data to a networked server over a  
5 first data network;

6 storing the data in a networked database hosted on  
7 the networked server;

8 providing the data from the networked database to  
9 the remote computer over a second communication network.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the first data  
2 network is the Internet and the second data network is a  
3 wireless data network.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the data is  
2 stored in the networked database as electronic mail.

1 13. The method of claim 10 further comprises:  
2 encrypting the message prior to transmission to the  
3 networked server; and

4 decrypting the message after receipt of the message  
5 at the remote computer.

1 14. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 establishing the selected path, wherein the selected  
3 path passes through a communication interface; and

4 buffering the data in the communication interface  
5 until the selected communication path is established.

1           15. The method of claim 14 further comprising  
2 combining data for a plurality of messages for transmission  
3 to the remote computer as a single transmission packet.  
4

5           16. A method for providing a remote computer access  
6 to a local database, the method comprising:  
7           sending a message, including information related to  
8 a local update to the local database over a first data  
9 network to a networked computer;  
10           receiving the message at the networked computer;  
11           updating a networked database hosted on the  
12 networked computer using the information related to the  
13 local update;  
14           accessing and updating the networked database from a  
15 remote computer over a second data network;  
16           sending a message that includes information related  
17 to the update of the networked database from the networked  
18 computer over the first data network;  
19           receiving the message that includes the information  
20 related to the update of the networked database; and  
21           updating the local database using the information  
22 related to the update of the networked database.

1           17. The method of claim 16 wherein the first data  
2 network is the Internet and the second data network is a  
3 wireless data network.

1           18. The method of claim 16 wherein the local  
2 database and the networked database include electronic mail  
3 messages.

1           19. The method of claim 16 wherein sending the  
2 message that includes information related to the local

3 update includes sending a message formatted as a request for  
4 data using an application protocol, and receiving the  
5 message that includes the information related to the update  
6 of the networked database includes receiving a message  
7 formatted as a response to a request using the application  
8 protocol;

9 whereby communication between the local computer and  
10 the remote computer passes through a gateway device which  
11 restricts communication to protocols including the  
12 application protocol.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the application  
2 protocol is http and the messages are formatted using HTML.

1 21. A system comprising:

2 a local database;

3 an agent for accessing information related to a  
4 local update of the local database, and for forming a  
5 message including that information for transmission to a  
6 remote computer;

7 a message router for accepting the message from the  
8 agent, and for selecting a path from one or more  
9 communication paths coupling the message router and the  
10 remote computer to pass the message to the remote computer;  
11 and

12 a local communication interface for accepting data  
13 including the message and transmitting the data to the  
14 remote computer over the selected path.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein the agent  
2 further determines whether the information related to the  
3 local update should be sent to the remote computer.

1           23. The system of claim 22 further comprising:  
2           a remote database;  
3           a remote communication interface on the remote  
4 computer for accepting the transmitted data including the  
5 message; and  
6           a remote application for accepting the information  
7 related to the local update from the remote communication  
8 interface, and for updating the remote database using that  
9 information.

1           24. The system of claim 23 wherein  
2           the remote communication interface further accepts  
3 information related to a remote update to the remote  
4 database and selects which of the one or more communication  
5 paths coupling the remote computer to the message router  
6 should be used to transmit the information related to the  
7 remote update to the message router.

1           25. The system of claim 23 wherein the remote  
2 communication interface includes a hook module that accepts  
3 the message including the information related to the local  
4 update and provides the information to the remote  
5 application over an application program interface.

1           26. The system of claim 21 further comprising a  
2 networked server for receiving the data transmitted from the  
3 local communication interface, including a database for  
4 storing that data prior to communicating with the remote  
5 computer.

1           27. Software stored on a computer readable medium  
2 for causing a computer to perform the functions of:

3            assessing information related to an update of a  
4   local database;  
5            determining whether to forward the information to a  
6   remote computer;  
7            selecting a communication path for passing the  
8   information to the remote computer;  
9            forming a message including the information; and  
10           sending the message on the selected communication  
11   path to the remote computer.

1           28. Software stored on a computer readable medium  
2   for causing a computer to perform the functions of:  
3            accepting a message from another computer including  
4   remote update information related to a database update;  
5            providing the remote update information to an  
6   application program for updating a local database stored on  
7   the computer;  
8            accepting local update information related to an  
9   update of the local database from the application program;  
10           determining whether to send the local update  
11   information to the other computer; and  
12           sending the local update information to the other  
13   computer.